

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 128953
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-11 NSAE-00 ICA-11
OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 SS-15 DOE-15 SOE-02 L-03 OES-07 INT-05
(ISO) R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPE: P L LAASE: VS
APPROVED BY EUR: R D VINE
EUR/RPE: A C ALBRECHT
EUR/CE: J HURLEY

-----074619 220148Z /63

R 212156Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, OECD, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIA AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC
COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

1. SUMMARY. AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, PETER
JANKOWITSCH, WHO IS BEING REASSIGNED AS AUSTRIA'S PERMA-
NENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OECD, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR
SCHOBER, CALLED ON EUR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE
MAY 16 TO DISCUSS OECD-RELATED MATTERS. JANKOWITSCH
TOUCHED ON FOUR SUBJECTS: (1) U.S. VIEW OF OECD; (2)
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OECD-SUMMIT RELATIONSHIP; (3) UN OBSERVER STATUS FOR OECD;
AND (4) INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA). AMBASSADOR
SCHOBER ALSO RAISED AUSTRIAN CANDIDACY FOR CHAIRMAN OF 1979
OECD MINISTERIAL. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE WHICH SMALL COUNTRY LIKE
AUSTRIA ATTACHES TO OECD, JANKOWITSCH ASKED HOW U.S.

VIEWS THE OECD. VINE RESPONDED THAT, DESPITE EXISTENCE OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND EVENTS ELSEWHERE, U.S. CONSIDERS THE OECD TO BE THE PRIMARY MECHANISM FOR COORDINATION OF ECONOMIC POLICIES AMONG THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THERE IS SOMETIMES MERIT IN USING SMALL GROUPS FOR SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND WE ARE PRAGMATIC IN OUR APPROACH. OUR FEELING IS THAT THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD

ADJUST TO THE PROBLEMS RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND. JANKOWITSCH AGREED, NOTING THAT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE THE SERVANT OF GOVERNMENTS.

3. JANKOWITSCH THEN ASKED HOW THE SUMMIT FITS INTO THE OECD FRAMEWORK. VINE NOTED THAT, WHILE THE OECD SECRETARIAT AS SUCH IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN SUMMIT PREPARATION, THE OECD'S WORK IS BEING DRAWN UPON EXTENSIVELY BY THE VARIOUS SUMMIT PREPARATORY GROUPS AND THAT THE OECD MINISTERIAL, WHICH WILL TREAT THE SAME ISSUES AS THE SUMMIT, AFFORDS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NON-SUMMIT COUNTRIES TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN DIRECTLY. JANKOWITSCH NOTED, AND VINE AGREED, THAT THE OECD WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP.

4. JANKOWITSCH MADE STRONG GOA PITCH FOR UNGA OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE OECD, STATING IT WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON G-77 AT UNGA. VINE REPLIED THAT U.S. SUPPORTS UNGA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBSERVER STATUS FOR OECD BUT THAT OUR VIEWS WERE NOT SHARED BY SOME KEY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

5. JANKOWITSCH, NOTING U.S. IEA MEMBERSHIP, ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF U.S. ENERGY PROGRAM. VINE STRESSED CONGRESSIONAL ROLE AND BROUGHT HIM UP TO DATE ON PROGRESS ON EACH OF FIVE MAIN ISSUES BEFORE CONGRESS, NOTING THAT NATURAL GAS PRICING AND CRUDE OIL EQUALIZATION TAX WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT AND CONTROVERSIAL PIECES OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAM. JANKOWITSCH ALSO ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE AUSTRALIAN IEA MEMBERSHIP AND WAS INFORMED OF INTERNAL AUSTRALIAN CONSIDERATION AND RESULTS OF LANTZKE VISIT LAST MONTH.

6. IN RESPONSE TO SCHOBERS QUESTION ON CHAIRMANSHIP OF 1979 OECD MINISTERIAL, VINE INFORMED HIM U.S. HAD DECIDED TO SUPPORT TURKEY SINCE TURKEY HAD ALSO SOUGHT POST FOR 1978 WHEN U.S. WAS COMMITTED TO JAPAN, BUT THAT WE WERE ALREADY INDICATING OUR SUPPORT FOR AUSTRIAN CHAIRMANSHIP IN 1980.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE128953
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: P L LAASE: VS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780214-1089
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780536/aaaabeao.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 17d38a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2623497
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRIA AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)
TAGS: PORG, AU, US, OECD
To: PARIS USOECD MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/17d38a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014